*All New Haven children, birth through 8 are healthy, safe, thriving in nurturing families*

*and prepared to be successful lifelong learners.*

**Wednesday, March 5, 2014 Notes**

**Meeting Notes**

* Approval of February 19, 2014 meeting notes – Janet Alfano made a motion to approve the notes, it was seconded by Bob Windom and passed unanimously.
* Council Financial Report – Jennifer Heath noted that the NHPS has committed $10,000 to the PreK-3 Initiative and that this will be included on the financial report going forward.
* Legislative Report – Cyd Oppenheimer reported that the Committee hearings have begun for the session. The Education Committee heard the bill about the OEC and School Readiness. There is language in the bill that would allow the OEC to adjust the SR rates if the funds are in the budget. This would provide for some SR rate adjustments to be made administratively and not legislatively. There is also a bill to change inspections from every two years to every one year.

The Early Childhood Caucus meets on Mondays to discuss issues. There was concern about the allocation of SR slots. Some districts have trouble filling slots and don’t want to show empty slots so that the legislature might think slots are not needed. There was discussion about how to allocate slots regionally and about the pros and cons.

There was also discussion about how difficult it is for families to understand the various funding streams and programs for early childhood, and what programs are part of the NHPS and which ones are not. It was suggested that the Board of Ed create a single point of entry for all options. Denise Duclos suggested that the NHECC take on the challenge – not the Board of Ed – to create a blueprint of how families can access a Preschool spot. Most SR slots are not in the NHPS.

* Committee Reports
  + Grants – There has not been a meeting since the last Council meeting.
  + QE – Sandy Malmquist passed out a calendar that shows the 12 community events for Week of the Young Child. She reported that there are an additional 18 events being held by Council organizations and others including the FRC’s and All Our Kin. Sandy also passed around a sign up sheet (and a job description) for people to sign up to volunteer, in pairs, at the community events.
  + PAFE – Galit spoke about the packets that the committee is developing. A sample, in draft, of the Kids Kit document was distributed. The three formats for the kit were also passed around.
* Old Business – Doreen Abubakar, who worked with Yury last year, recently was awarded a grant from Graustein to hold a Community Conversation in the Newhallville neighborhood. She is interested in having people join her work bringing services to the neighborhood.

**Next Meeting – Wednesday, April 2, 2014 at 3:00**